

Harnessing Socio-Cultural Constraints on Athlete Development to create a Form of Life

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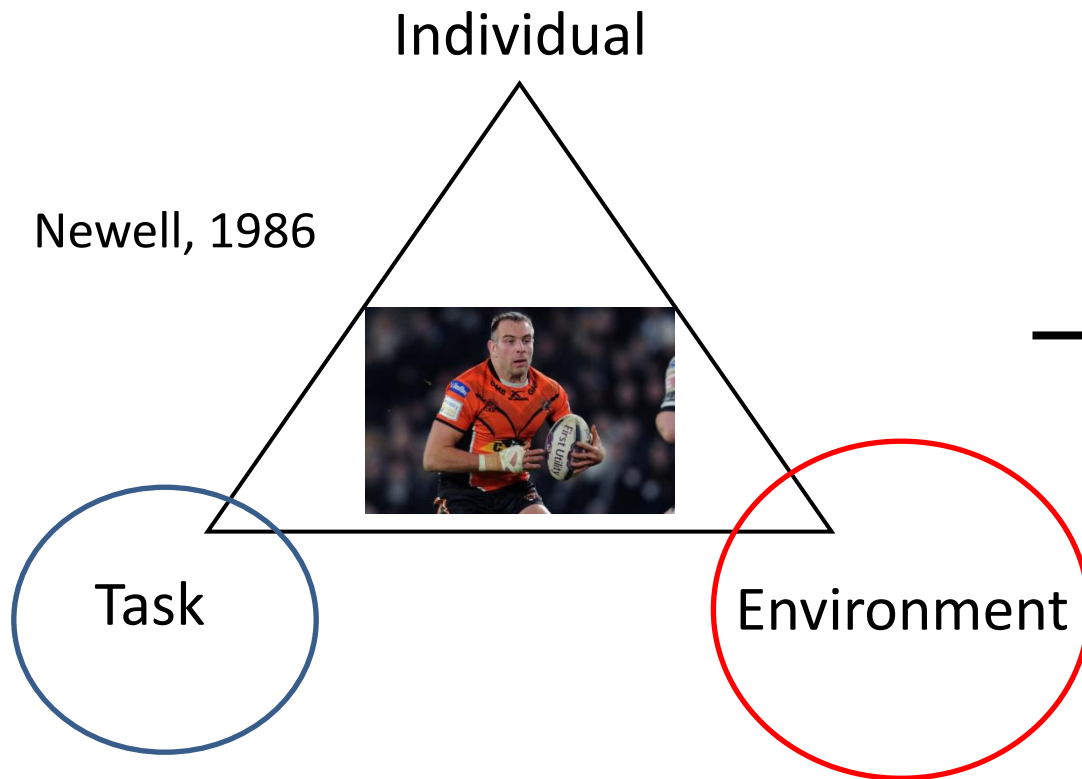
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A Form of Life, Affordances, and Athlete Performance

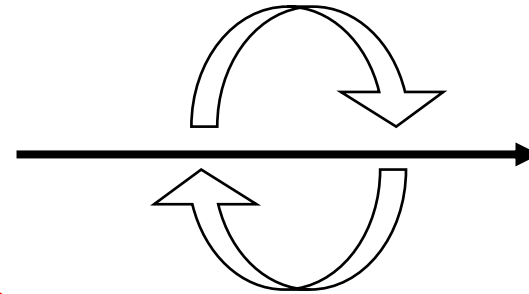


Martyn Rothwell, Keith Davids, and Joseph Stone

Practice design & task constraints



Perception



Action



Socio-cultural constraints

- Social, cultural, and historical (environmental) influences are integral constraints on skilled action (Araújo et al., 2010)



- Little insights into the influence on athlete development and performance (Uehara, Button, Falcous, and Davids, 2016).

Form of life



(Wittgenstein, 1993)

Attitudes

Beliefs

Skills

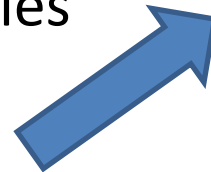
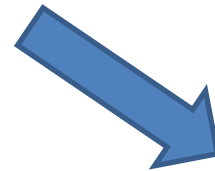
Values

Capacities

Customs

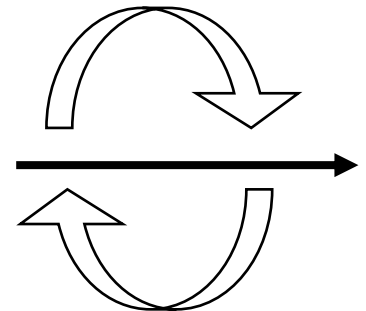
Practices

Behaviours



Micro Structure
of Practice

Perception



Action

Relational nature of affordances and a form of life

Affordances are dependent on the "abilities available in a particular ecological niche"; important to this point is how an ecological niche can be "shaped and sculpted by the rich variety of social practices humans engage in" (Gibson, 1979; Rietveld & Kiverstein, 2014, p. 326).

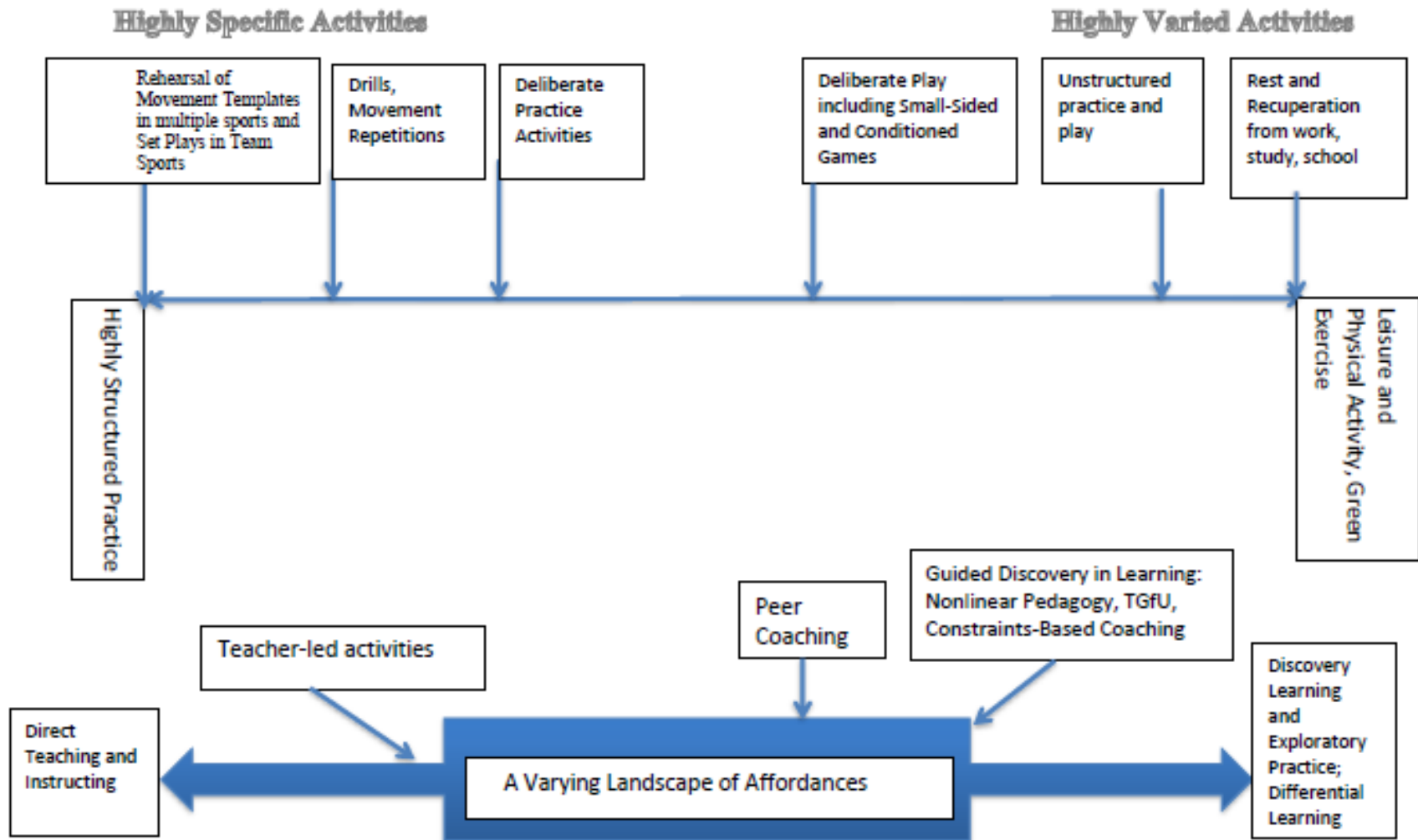


A form of life: the case of rugby league



"Managers should not allow employees to think for themselves but make sure they simply carry out tasks as instructed, our scheme does not ask any initiative in a man. All we want of them is to obey the orders we give them, do what we say, and do it quick" (Taylor, 2008, p. 215).

A form of life and affordances



A form of life: the case of rugby league

"The 'structured' play of who stands where, runs into which hole in their opponents' defensive line, passes behind which team-mate, it's a bit like watching a driverless car There is a shift away from autonomous thinking in attack. Worse still, we are in danger of damaging young players by encouraging them to copy this style of play"
(Phil Clarke ex Great Britain International, 2016, p. 7/10)

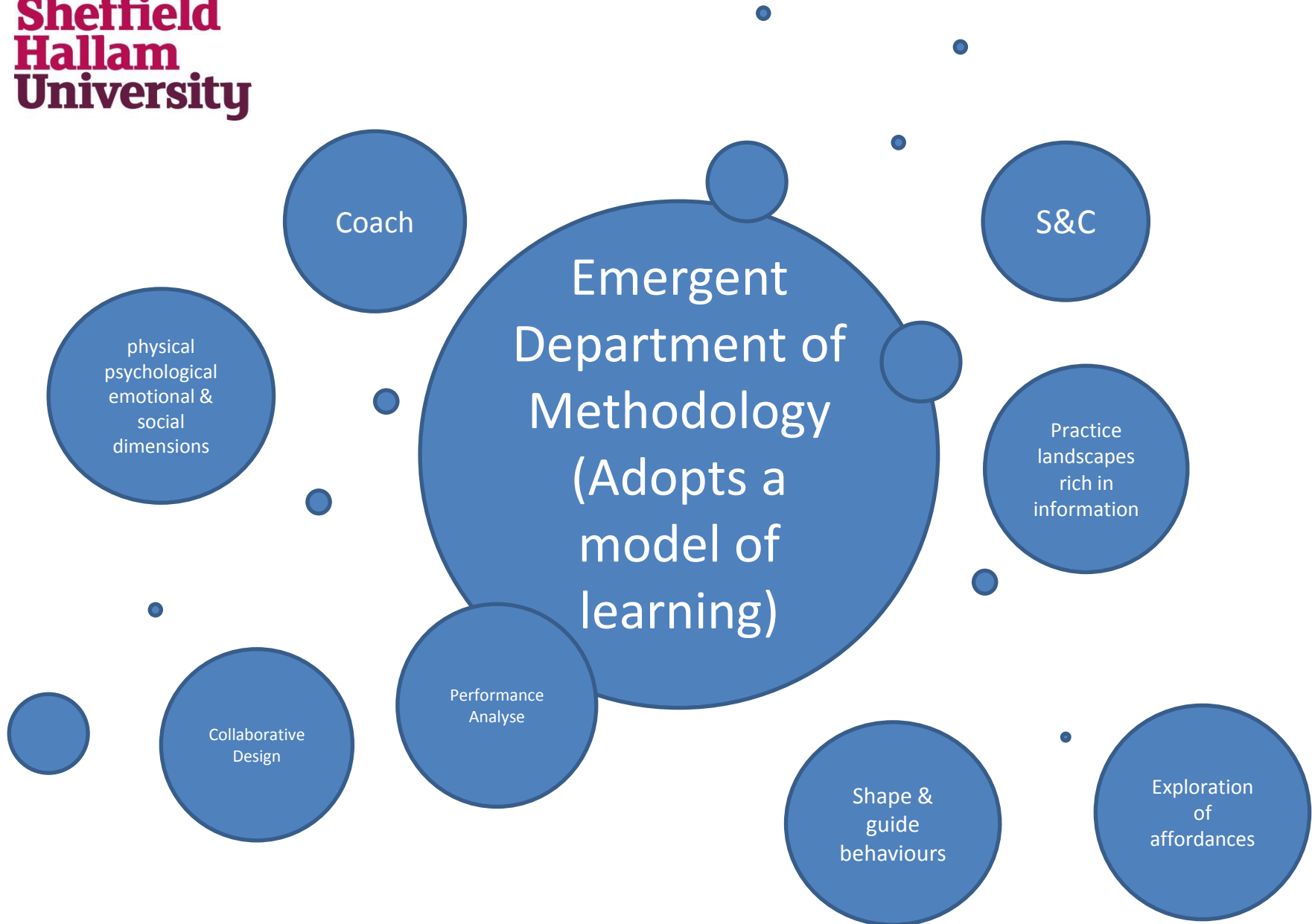
A form of life: the case of rugby league



A form of life: the case of rugby league

"I would say we create a lot of rugby robots coaches copy what they see on tele every week, we play set plays for set players, for set plays, so the kids lose all the ability to become decision makers. All they know is how to run a specific shape and it doesn't matter what a defensive line does" (talent development coach)

Rothwell, Stone, & Davids (in preparation)



Conclusions: Implications for coaching practice

"For me, you should have your own philosophy and culture as a coach (form of life - based on a model of learning)

We have a way of playing, but we're always tweaking it, if teams expect something from us then we'll throw something else at them.
(continuous co-adaptations)

As a coaching group we like to be inventive
(emergent department of methodology)"



Daryl Powell
Castleford Tigers
Head Coach (2017)